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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 24th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. ELARABY	(Egypt)
later:	Mr. SUH (Vice-Chairman)	(Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 to 65, 68 and 142; 67 and 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS UNDER ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call the representative of Canada, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.12.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Canada): The Canadian delegation is again pleased to introduce the draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes". This year it is contained in document A/C.1/47/L.12 dated 28 October. The draft resolution is sponsored by Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Cameroon, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Sweden, Uruguay and Canada: a group of States from every continent.

(Mr. Robertson, Canada)

I wish to draw to the attention of representatives a number of changes that have been made in the text of this draft resolution in relation to the resolution on this subject adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

In addition to several purely technical updatings, the fourth preambular paragraph is new. It has been included to give appropriate recognition to important developments in the area of nuclear disarmament during the past year - both bilateral, between Russia and the United States of America, and in a series of unilateral undertakings. These developments are of relevance to the goal of prohibiting the production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes and they further enhance prospects for the realization of this goal.

The fifth preambular paragraph is also new. In it the General Assembly would specifically welcome the recent decision of the United States not to produce plutonium or highly enriched uranium for nuclear explosive purposes.

Apart from these changes, the focus of this essentially procedural draft resolution remains substantively unchanged from that of its predecessors.

Canada strongly urges all delegations to lend their support to this draft resolution, which the sponsors hope might be adopted with even greater support than in the past.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Nigeria, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.5.

Mr. FASEHUN (Nigeria): It is an honour for me to introduce, on behalf of all its sponsors, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.5, entitled "United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme". Positive changes are taking place in the international community which have made possible the achievements recorded in the area of disarmament.

(Mr. Fasehun, Nigeria)

Before the current positive developments, the United Nations, conscious of the importance of disarmament and arms control and the need to have young diplomats trained in the field of disarmament, established the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme. The fellowship programme has produced 321 fellows, ex-patriots from 121 Member States, and its advisory services arm has stretched out to the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America through the organization of regional disarmament workshops.

Most of the former fellows are among us today, while others are occupying important positions in the foreign ministries of their countries. Given its impressive record of performance and the prevailing positive international environment, the programme should continue to enjoy the full support and funding of the United Nations.

The draft resolution before the Committee is essentially the same as that of last year. However, reflecting the popularity of the programme, the number of sponsors has increased. To date we have over 38 sponsors.

In the preamble of the draft resolution the General Assembly would note with satisfaction that the programme had trained a number of public officials, and also that many officials of developing countries had acquired expertise through the training programme.

In the operative part of the draft resolution the General Assembly would express appreciation to the Member States that had rendered financial assistance to the workshops conducted under the programme.

(Mr. Fasehun, Nigeria)

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the different Member States that have pledged their financial contributions to the advancement of the programme. It is the hope of the sponsors that the draft resolution will, as in previous years, be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Venezuela, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34.

Mr. SALAZAR (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): This year the Venezuelan delegation has the opportunity, on behalf of its sponsors, to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34 on item 58 of the agenda of the General Assembly, entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space". The sponsors of the draft resolution are: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Ukraine, Viet Nam, and my own delegation, Venezuela.

These delegations consider it necessary to continue the in-depth bilateral and multilateral efforts to achieve the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and to prevent the arms race from spreading to space.

Although profound changes have taken place in the world, interest in the research and development of defensive systems which could be placed in outer space seems to be continuing unabated. The great resources spent on this objective and the qualitative improvement of certain arms systems show that the use of outer space could become, if it is not already, a serious risk to collective security.

(Mr. Salazar, Venezuela)

This tendency, without a doubt, raises the possibility that this geographical environment will become a further theatre for strategic and military competition. The inadequacy of the existing legal regime applicable to space is not the best guarantee of the preservation of this environment for exclusively peaceful purposes. The search for juridical norms to prevent the transferring of the arms race to outer space remains an item of primary importance on the disarmament agenda.

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34, which we are introducing today, follows the general lines of last year's General Assembly resolution 46/33. However, there have been some changes such as the reference to the Final Declaration adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta in September 1992, and emphasis on the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community regarding the use of outer space.

The delegations of Egypt, Sri Lanka and Venezuela have carried out consultations with certain States and groups of States with a view to soliciting suggestions for improving the draft resolution this year.

Before concluding, I should like to emphasize the participation of new delegations in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34. This shows how important the prevention of an arms race in outer space is for the security of States Members of the United Nations in the present international context, which is characterized by the many innovations and advances in the scientific and technological field.

This draft resolution then stresses the need for the adoption of additional legal instruments to make up for the inadequacies of the current

(Mr. Salazar, Venezuela)

legislation on space and, to a certain extent, seeks to meet the concerns of those States and, the international community in this regard.

Mr. NEAGU (Romania): As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space at this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament, I feel morally bound to join the sponsors of the draft resolution just introduced by the representative of Venezuela on the continuation of efforts at the Conference to achieve the objective of ensuring the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

(Mr. Neagu, Romania)

In accordance with the mandate given to it by the Conference on Disarmament, the Ad Hoc Committee continued, during its session this year, to examine and, by substantive and general consideration, to identify issues relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, taking into account the existing agreements, as well as the relevant proposals, initiatives and developments since the establishment of the Committee in 1985.

During the deliberations it was normal for different - sometimes even opposing - views to be expressed. However, as is underlined in the report of the Conference on Disarmament that is under consideration, the Committee made progress in its efforts to identify areas of convergence suitable for more structured work.

But much remains to be done to prevent an arms race in outer space. Therefore, the Conference decided to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, with an adequate mandate, at the beginning of its 1993 session, taking into account all relevant factors, including the work done by the Committee since 1985.

My delegation believes that the content of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34 will encourage the Conference on Disarmament to continue its endeavours to extend areas of convergence, taking into account relevant proposals and initiatives, including those put forward by the Ad Hoc Committee at the 1992 session of the Conference and those put forward at this session of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Mexico, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37.

Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The question of a comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapon tests has been on the agenda of the First Committee for almost four decades, and the General Assembly has adopted some 80 resolutions on the subject. This is compelling evidence of the importance that the international community attaches to the subject and of the assiduity with which the General Assembly has pursued this goal.

For many years the First Committee considered two draft resolutions on the subject. Last year, however, the delegations of Australia, New Zealand and Mexico succeeded in having the two drafts merged, and today, for the second year in succession, Mexico has the honour of presenting a single draft resolution, which is contained in document A/C.1/47/L.37. The draft resolution is sponsored by the 66 States listed in that document and by Germany.

As they indicate in the preamble to the draft resolution, the sponsors are convinced that the possibility of securing a treaty prohibiting all nuclear tests increased substantially in 1992. After recalling the various resolutions on the subject and stressing the priority attached to them, we reiterate our conviction

"that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought".

In this draft resolution, as in resolution 46/29 of 1992, the General Assembly welcomes

"the improved relationship between the Russian Federation and the United States of America and their consequent announcements of significant measures, including unilateral steps, which could signal the reversal of the nuclear-arms race",

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

as well as

> "the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on 31 July 1991, and the signing of a protocol to this Treaty in which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America undertake to give effect to the Treaty"

and

> "the Joint Understanding of 17 June 1992 between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on further reductions in their strategic offensive arms".

Other preambular paragraphs make reference to unilateral measures adopted by three of the nuclear-weapon States: the decision of the Russian Federation to extend its moratorium on nuclear testing; the decision of France to suspend its testing of nuclear weapons for 1992; and the recent decision of the United States to implement a testing moratorium accompanied by a plan to achieve a multilateral, comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. The draft resolution also endorses the call made by France and by the Russian Federation on the other nuclear Powers to suspend their nuclear tests.

The draft resolution reiterates the conviction

> "that an end to nuclear testing by all States in all environments for all time is an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation and to contribute, along with other concurrent efforts to reduce nuclear arms, to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons".

Reference is made also to the environmental and health risks associated with underground nuclear testing, and there is explicit reference to an expert

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

study on these questions - which is contained document CD/1167 - prepared under the auspices of the Norwegian Government. In this regard, the Assembly would welcome

"the statement of the Russian Federation, when announcing its nuclear-testing moratorium decision on 26 October 1991, which noted, inter alia, the environmental benefits and economic savings to be derived".

In this draft resolution the General Assembly would also reiterate its conviction

"that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion, at an early date, of a verifiable, comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States",

and it refers to undertakings entered into in this regard by the original parties to the partial test-ban Treaty of 1963 and the non-proliferation Treaty of 1968. It notes with satisfaction the work done by the Group of Scientific Experts in Geneva, and it recalls the process initiated a few years ago to amend the 1963 Treaty.

The preamble concludes with an expression of

"disappointment that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on item 1 of its agenda, entitled 'Nuclear test ban', despite the improved political climate".

The operative part of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37 consists of eight paragraphs, according to which the General Assembly:

"1. Reaffirms its conviction that a treaty to achieve the prohibition of all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments for all time is a matter of priority which would constitute

(Mr. Marín Bosch, Mexico)

an essential step in order to prevent the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons and their further proliferation, and which would contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament;

(Mr Marín Bosch, Mexico)

"2. Urges, therefore, all States to seek to achieve the early discontinuance of all nuclear-test explosions for all time;

"3. Urges:

"(a) The nuclear-weapon States to agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to concluding a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

"(b) Those nuclear-weapon States which have not yet done so to adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water;

"4. Reaffirms the particular responsibilities of the Conference on Disarmament in the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, and, in this context, urges the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban in 1993;

"5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, in this context, to intensify its substantive work begun in 1990 on specific and interrelated test-ban issues, including structure and scope and verification and compliance, taking also into account all relevant proposals and future initiatives;

"6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament:

"(a) To take into account the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including the experience gained from the technical test concerning the global exchange and analysis of seismic data, and other relevant initiatives;

"(b) To continue efforts to establish, with the widest possible participation, an international seismic monitoring network with a view to

(Mr Marín Bosch, Mexico)

developing further a system for the effective monitoring and verification of compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty;

"(c) To investigate other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including on-site inspections, satellite monitoring, and an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity;

"7. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on progress made, including its recommendations on how the objectives of the Ad Hoc Committee on agenda item 1 entitled "Nuclear test ban" should be carried forward most effectively towards achieving a comprehensive test-ban treaty;"

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled 'Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty'."

The sponsors of the draft resolution hope that it will receive the firm support of the members of the First Committee and then of the General Assembly. In this way the United Nations will be issuing an unequivocable message on the importance that it attaches to the prompt conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a ban on all nuclear-test explosions by all States in all environments and for all time. A comprehensive test-ban treaty is a necessary step in achieving a less insecure world and a universal system for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia): I am pleased to take the floor to speak in support of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37, just introduced by the representative of Mexico. I should like to take this opportunity to thank him for his consistent support for the objectives of this draft resolution and in particular this year for his leadership of the efforts to develop as wide support as possible for it.

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

This draft resolution is a successor to the merged resolution of 1991 - resolution 46/29 - introduced by New Zealand, which for the first time allowed the international community to express in one voice its hopes for an end to nuclear testing. This year that objective can be repeated more strongly because of the significant evolution that has taken place: the foreshadowed sharp unilateral cuts by the largest possessors of nuclear weapons in the numbers of such weapons and agreement to cut deeply into the most threatening and destabilizing elements of their nuclear arsenals.*

As the military utility of nuclear weapons has come under increasing question, the need for testing to develop or modernize nuclear warheads has disappeared. The arguments for testing, which are based on concerns regarding safety and reliability, are questioned within the scientific and technical community. So the stage is set now for the international community to move forward on one of the great long-sought disarmament objectives: an end to the testing of nuclear weapons in all environments and for all time. We now have moratoriums in place in four of the five nuclear-weapon States. We call on the last remaining nuclear-testing power - China - to join the others in exercising restraint. And we call on all five nuclear-weapon States to convert testing moratoriums into a permanent ban.

The way that conversion should be done is through the elaboration of a multilateral treaty in the Conference on Disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament has over the years completed a lot of work on aspects of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, inter alia through the provision by Member States of draft texts of a treaty. I thank the delegations of Russia and Sweden for those contributions.

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* Mr, Suh (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

Disarmament has over the years completed a lot of work on aspects of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, inter alia through the provision by Member States of draft texts of a treaty. I thank the delegations of Russia and Sweden for those contributions.

Taking into account all recent developments on the nuclear testing front, Australia considers that it would be useful to submit ideas on elements of a comprehensive test-ban treaty to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in the course of its work programme next year. Australia intends to provide such elements for the consideration of the international community. These elements will take close account of the work already done in the Conference on Disarmament, the existing law and practice relating to the monitoring and regulation of nuclear testing and of course input, both technical and otherwise, from the testing States themselves.

In developing ideas on how to monitor a comprehensive test ban treaty, the work done by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events on its second major technical test (GSETT-2) and their subsequent report to the Conference on Disarmament are important contributions. We would like to encourage the participation of more States in the work of the Group of Experts. As the possibility of a comprehensive test-ban treaty increases, we hope the work of providing input into seismic and other aspects of verification will also increase.

Australia believes that the international community has now, for the first time since President Eisenhower called for a comprehensive test ban in March 1960, a real opportunity to put into place a long-sought disarmament goal. We acknowledge that a nuclear-test ban will require careful and

(Mr. O'Sullivan, Australia)

judicious thought and detailed negotiation. It will, like the chemical weapons Convention, demand a mixture of technical expertise and political judgement. It will also need a measure of determination and goodwill from all negotiators. The achievement of a chemical weapons Convention should give us heart that we are now in an international environment in which such outcomes are available. We believe that a comprehensive test-ban treaty should be achieved, or nearly so, by the time that the extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is held in March 1995.

Mr. RICHARDS (New Zealand): I am pleased to speak today in support of the draft resolution on a comprehensive test-ban treaty (A/C.1/47/L.37), just introduced by the representative of Mexico and supported by the representative of Australia.

The representative of Mexico has provided a detailed commentary on the text, which I will not repeat. Nor do I want to reiterate New Zealand's views on the importance of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, views which the Permanent Representative of New Zealand placed on record in his statement to the Committee on 15 October. However, I should like to offer a few comments on some of the considerations taken into account in drawing up the draft resolution before us this year.

Last year, for the first time in nearly twenty years, this Committee was presented with a single draft resolution on a comprehensive test-ban treaty. As resolution 46/29, that text received overwhelming support from the General Assembly.

(Mr. Richards, New Zealand)

New Zealand was proud to have sponsored that resolution. We are also pleased that the hopes expressed therein for further reductions in nuclear arsenals have been fulfilled. In 1992 we have all applauded measures signalling the reversal of the nuclear arms race.

The year 1992 has also seen increasing momentum towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty. According to draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37, the General Assembly would acknowledge and welcome significant steps taken in recent months by the nuclear-weapon States, the majority of whom have now suspended testing for specified periods. Compared with last year, more than half as many States again have sponsored the text. This can be taken as a measure of the strengthening expectation of the world community that nuclear testing should be halted once and for all.

The climate for progress has never been more propitious. It should be possible to negotiate a comprehensive test-ban treaty over the next few years without compromising the security interests of the nuclear-weapon States. Such an achievement would greatly strengthen international efforts with a view to non-proliferation, which is regarded by many, including my Government, as the major security problem facing the post-cold-war world.

In bringing to this Committee, at this session, draft Convention on chemical weapons, the Conference on Disarmament has justified the faith placed in it as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. In draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37 the Assembly would call upon the Conference on Disarmament to build upon that success and decide how it could most effectively work towards its objective of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

(Mr. Richards, New Zealand)

Support for the text before us will signal to the Conference on Disarmament that the international community is behind it as it begins its 1993 work. It will demonstrate the existence of the political will that is so essential if that work is to be carried towards a successful conclusion.

New Zealand commends the draft resolution to all members.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of Peru, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.6.

Mr. VASQUEZ (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has the honour of introducing the draft resolution entitled "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 1995 Conference and its Preparatory Committee", issued under the symbol A/C.1/47/L.6.

Peru, as Chairman of the Fourth Amendment Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), convened here at Headquarters the States Parties to that international instrument with a view to achieving a consensus agreement on the beginning of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 Conference. That agreement is contained in the draft resolution which my delegation is introducing.

According to this draft resolution, the General Aassembly would recall its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It would note the provisions of article X, paragraph 2, of that Treaty, requiring the holding of a conference 25 years after the entry into force of the Treaty to decide whether the Treaty should continue in force indefinitely or should be extended for an additional fixed period.

(Mr. Vasquez, Peru)

The Assembly would also note the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty, concerning the convening of review conferences, and would note further that the last Review Conference took place in 1990. It would recall that the Treaty entered into force on 5 March 1970, and would further recall decision 46/413 of 6 December 1991, approved by consensus at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

In the operative part, the General Assembly would take note of the fact that the parties to the Treaty, following appropriate consultations, had decided to form a Preparatory Committee for a Conference in 1995 to review the operation of the Treaty and to decide on its extension, as provided for in article VIII, paragraph 3, and in article X, paragraph 2.

The General Assembly would also note that the Preparatory Committee would be open to all parties to the Treaty and, if that Committee so decided at the outset of its first session, also to States not parties as observers, and that the Preparatory Committee would hold its first meeting in New York from 10 to 14 May 1993.

Finally, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as might be required, including summary records, for the 1995 Conference and its preparatory committee.

In view of the process which led to the agreement contained in the draft resolution which I am introducing, and the fact that it was adopted by consensus, my delegation hopes that this draft resolution will be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the Secretary of the Committee to make a statement.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I would like to inform the Committee that the following States have become co-sponsors of the following draft resolutions:

A/C.1/47/L.5: Algeria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Namibia, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America;

A/C.1/47/L.15: Bulgaria, Belgium, Romania and Costa Rica;

A/C.1/47/L.18: Singapore;

A/C.1/47/L.20: Costa Rica and Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

A/C.1/47/L.21: Costa Rica;

A/C.1/47/L.24: Kuwait;

A/C.1/47/L.26: Costa Rica;

A/C.1/47/L.29: Costa Rica;

A/C.1/47/L.33: Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

A/C.1/47/L.35: Kuwait and Zambia;

A/C.1/47/L.37: Germany, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia;

A/C.1/47/L.38: Islamic Republic of Iran;

A/C.1/47/L.39: Costa Rica;

A/C.1/47/L.41: Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

A/C.1/47/L.42: Belgium and Norway.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.